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NO CHANGE IN CLASS. (U)

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NEXT REVIEW DATE:

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NSC BRIEFING

31 March 1960

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

- I. Further serious disorders are probable in the Union.
 - A. In strikes and demonstrations this week Africans demonstrated to their own satisfaction and to European minority their potential for disrupting country's economic and political structure.
 1. Work stoppage on 28 March "Day of Mourning" for last week's victims was highly effective--95% in Cape Town, 80% in Johannesburg.
 2. Absenteeism continues high.
 - B. Although Black African organizations have been emphasizing peaceful moves, various recent reports indicate plans for further demonstrations and their unwillingness to be satisfied with minor concessions.
 1. Blacks have already driven white administrators out of native sectors adjoining some cities.
 - C. But Black Africans are still not strong enough to challenge successfully white control of the country.
 1. Black Africans still lack unified leadership, as two major organizations compete for support of 3,500,000 urban Blacks (as distinct from the 6,000,000 Black natives who live on white-owned farms and in native reservations).
 - a. Older and larger of these Black urban organizations is Communist-influenced African National Congress; most of its leaders are under sharp surveillance or in jail.

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- b. Other Black urban organization is relatively new militant Pan-African Congress; it launched campaign against pass law which led to last week's riots.

II. Verwoerd government, after temporarily suspending pass law enforcement after 21-22 March riots, has stiffened attitude.

A. Government has:

1. arrested several hundred antigovernment leaders, including a few whites;
2. declared state of emergency in urban areas;
3. mobilized part of 20,000-man civilian reserve (to supplement 2,500-man army, 22,000-man police);
4. initiated legislative action to outlaw both the African National Congress and Pan-Africanist Congress.

B. In current moves to contain Black Africans, government is supported by almost all country's 3,000,000 whites--even those (the minority) who recognize need for moderation of government policies.

III. South African racial policies will be a major subject at two African conferences to be held in April in Accra and Conakry.

IV. Flame has been lit; it may temporarily flicker, but over months ahead will strengthen and flare.

A. As flames brighten, country's prospects darken.

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